

**Michigan Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Summary
of
May 15, 2007, Meeting
President's Room of the Farm Bureau Center in Lansing Michigan**

Council Members

Jon Allan	Sumedh Bahl
Rich Bowman	Jim Cleland
James Clift	Jon Coleman
Michael Gregg	Kurt Heise
Fred Hennigsen	Rod Mersino
Thomas Newhof	Bill Pearson
Scott Piggott	Dr. Paul Seelbach

Phoned in:

Michael Newman

Dr. Alan Steinman

Guests

Jeremiah Asher – MSU	Jim Bredin MDEQ
Rochelle Breitenbach – Detroit Audubon	Joyce Dunkin – LIMNO
Mary Ericson – NWF	Patricia Fouchey - MDNR
Fred Goldberg – MMBJ	Dave Hamilton - MDEQ-LWMD
Lyndon Kelley- MSU	Jim Nicholas - USGS
Frank Ruswick - MDEQ	Dr. Ed Rutherford - U of M
Gene Smary – WNJ	Troy Zorn - MDNR

Introduction of Guests

Wayne Wood, President of Farm Bureau for 7 years but still a farmer at heart, welcomed the GWCAC to the Farm Bureau Building. President Wood thanked the council for the 2.2 in of rainfall last week and 9/10 inches of rainfall last night. Now he would like to finish planting. Thanks, but we have had enough rain; for now. President Wood complimented the committee for their efforts. He stated we must go forward to protect the water. No one appreciates the water more than farmers.

A letter from the Michigan United Conservation Club (MUCC) congratulating Paul Seelbach as Michigan Water Conservationist of the Year for his work on groundwater and the groundwater model in furthering the cause of conservation in Michigan was read.

Kurt Heise welcomed all those present. Everyone introduced themselves.

Administrative Considerations

Legislative Testimony

Legislative testimony was given last Wednesday, May 9, 2007. Co-Chairmen Jon Allan, Kurt Heise and Paul Seelbach presented a PowerPoint to the Senate Natural Resource Committee chaired by Senator Patty Bircholtz. The power point was distributed to the GWCAC and GWCAC Guests via email on 5/10/2007 and is available at the <http://www.michigan.gov/dnrgwcac> website in the Overview Section.

Executive Order 2007-8

DEQ Frank Ruswick & DNR Paul Seelbach met with the directors of DEQ and DNR. The Directors were very supportive of work done so far. Mr. Ruswick and Dr. Seelbach made it clear that the GWCAC would like 4 or 5 more months to finish assignment. Once the Water Assessment Screening Tool is built / functional, the Council wants to take the Water Assessment Screening Tool to the public sector for viewing and comment. The executive order says responsibility will belong to DEQ as of July 15.

Final Report Update

Jim Nichols will start working on the report after the Memorial Day Holiday. He needs all of the proposed content the Thursday before Memorial Day because he will be at his cottage doing the report with no accesses to email / internet. Jim Nicholas will try to have the report done by June 5th for discussion/ review / comment and finalization at the June 8 GWCAC Meeting.

The GWCAC Co-chairmen stressed to the GWCAC members that they read the report before the June 8 Meeting so a meaningful discussion can be held. A show of hands revealed that most of the GWCAC Members present will be at the June 8 Meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

Sustainability

The report was distributed via email and is available at the <http://www.michigan.gov/dnrgwcac> website. Committee Chairman Dr. Al Steinman is accepting public comment. His E-mail is steinmaa@gvsu.edu or you can write to Dr. Steinman at Annis Water Resources Institute, Grand Valley State University, Lake Michigan Center, 740 West Shoreline Drive, Muskegon MI 49441

Mitigation

The subcommittee plans to meet twice more before June 8.

Legal Committee

At the last legal subcommittee meeting the group talked about presumptions. James Clift distributed "factors impacting the presumption with regard to use of the assessment tool" with the 2nd page stating the current uses of presumptions in current statute today.

Assessment Tool

Recommendations on Return Flow Proposal

Dr. Paul Seelbach said based on where we are now in having the Water Assessment Screening Tool ready, return flow will not be added. The technical committee is trying to find a balance on what it can and cannot get done. The Council recognizes return flow has value but at this point return flow will not be factored into the Water Assessment Screening Tool.

Recommendations on Capacity versus Use Proposal

A discussion was held on using capacity or use when entering information into the water assessment screening tool.

Fish Modeling and Fish Curve Recommendations

The Technical Advisory Committee has met twice since the last GWCAC meeting. There will be a detailed update and presentation on the Water Assessment Screening Tool at Constitution Hall on Tuesday, May 29th from 8:30 to 11:30 AM. The entire council is encouraged to attend.

From a PowerPoint titled: GW intro and curves- May 3 recommendations.ppt giving the technical approach to modeling characteristic fish populations, estimating functional response to flow reductions, and determining Adverse Resource Impacts across Michigan rivers, referred to as the Habitat Factor, was presented by Paul Seelbach.

Water Assessment Screening Tool Interface

Jeremiah Asher showed updates of the Water Assessment Screen Tool that were done since the last meeting. Now there are 3 ways to find location. Besides entering an address or county, the latitude / longitude can be entered.

Once user has navigated down they will see: Set withdrawal, on the Water Assessment Screening Tool that brings up an interface to give intermittent pumping choices. User can select pumping days per week and number of months. Howard Reeves is still working with that part of the model. Once done, Jeremiah Asher will work it into the Water Assessment Screening Tool.

Guiding Principles Scott Piggott 2:50 to 2:51

At the last GWCAC Meeting nineteen guiding principles were approved.

Next Meetings Locations and Dates

There will be a detailed update and presentation on the Water Assessment Screening Tool on Tuesday, May 29th at the Lansing DEQ Building IE: Constitution Hall at 525 West Allegan Street from 8:30 to 11:30 AM

June 8, 2007 from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm in the Lodge Meeting Room at 33494 S. Maxton Road on Drummond Island.

The other meeting dates have been put on hold because of Executive Order 2007-8.

Revised 6/4/2007